THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : குழந்தைகளை ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கு எடுத்துச் செல்லும்போதும், வயாதியஸ்தர்களாகவும், பெண்களாகவும் இருந்தால், அவர்கள் தங்கள் குழந்தைகளையோ மற்றவர்களையோ துணையாக அழைத்துக்கொண்டு போவதற்கும் அனுமதித்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் உல்லாசமாக தம்பதிகள் சைக்கில் ரிக்ஷாவில் போவதற்கு அரசாங்கத்தார் உத்தரவு கொடுக்கமாட்டார்கள்.

Holding of annual examination in December for schools and colleges

* 2459 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to hold annual examination in schools and colleges in the State in the month of December?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The answer is " Yes ", Sir.

Release of stocks of rice by the Central Government

* 2460 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether large stocks of rice have been released for sale by the Central Government in April 1955;

(b) whether the price of rice in Madras markets has fallen as a consequence of the said release;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the State Government to prevent or check the fall in prices; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) A quantity of about 13,490 tons (in terms of rice) was released for sale by the Government of India from the Central Storage in different centres in Madras State during April 1955.

(b) Though the release of Central Stocks of rice by the Government of India had some depressing effect on the prices of rice in Madras markets, it was only one of the causes for the slight decline in the price of rice. Other factors such as the availability of plentiful stocks in the markets, general nervousness and weakening of demand, lack of financial resources with the cultivators and their consequent anxiety to dispose of the stocks quickly and realize money to meet their urgent needs, etc., also contributed to the decline of prices. But the prices did not go below the uneconomic level, in any Centre in the State.

It is seen from the papers that there is keen demand for rice in the markets and that the prices have advanced for the stocks released by the Government of India as well as for other stocks, in the markets.

(c) & (d) With a view to watch the trend of prices of food-grains and other agricultural commodities in the markets of the State and to take immediate steps to check a fall in prices below the economic level wherever necessary, the Government have constituted a small *Ad Hoc* Committee with the Commissioner of